

MINUTES

Third Quarterly Meeting of the MISSOURI VETERANS COMMISSION

Held, pursuant to notice

Monday, August 12, 2002 — 10:00 AM

Chateau on the Lake Resort Hotel and Convention Center (Florence Room)
Branson, Missouri

I. CALL TO ORDER

- A. Invocation & Pledge of Allegiance
- B. Roll Call
In attendance: **Chairman, Carl Niewoehner, Vice Chairman Donald Gralike, Member Bernadette Miller, Member Emmett Fairfax, and Member Reginald Bassa**
- D. Introductions
Guests and staff present.
 - 1. Guests: **Dr. Jay Rounds**, UMSL Museum Studies; **Jim Whitfield**, Western Area Coordinator, MO Military Funeral Honors Program; **Colonel Wayne Medley**, MO Military Funeral Honors Program
 - 2. Staff: **Sam McVay**, Executive Director; **Ronald Taylor**, Associate Director; **Anne Payne**, Superintendent of Homes; **Jill Talken**, Executive Secretary; **Ralph Durnbaugh**, Director Veterans Benefits Awareness; **Hal Dulle**, Assistant to Director
- E. Approval of May 10, 2002 Commission Meeting Minutes. Commissioner Gralike made a motion to accept previous minutes. Commissioner Fairfax seconded the motion. The minutes of the previous meeting were approved as recorded.

II. OLD BUSINESS:

Management Report: Executive Director Comments: Sam McVay

Mr. McVay thanked the Commission for handling his special needs and granting his request for reassignment to the Cape Girardeau State Veterans Home. Due to health reasons Mr. McVay resigned from the position of Executive Director and informed the Commission how grateful he is for getting the opportunity to work directly with each of them. Mr. McVay stated that he will be available to Mr. Taylor if he needs assistance on the continuation of the VBATF.

Missouri Veterans Homes: Anne Payne, Director of Homes

Homes Program – Anne Payne welcomed the Commissioners to the 50th Anniversary of the NASVH Conference. She explained how the conference this year is geared towards family. A new session called “Best Practices” was added to the conference this year. This session will allow other states to share their premier program and hopefully gain useful information from other states. To kick off the new program a plaque will be awarded to the “Best Practice” state and will continue to travel on to the winners of the following years. Ms. Payne presented to each Commissioner a NASVH award. Total donations from vendors for the conference exceeded \$50,000.

Construction Update: Ronald Taylor, Associate Director

Construction – Report Update August 12, 2002, prepared by Tim Norton was handed out. (attachment)

Ron Taylor informed the Commission that Hal Dulle has been working with county officials at Jacksonville on the paving of the entrance to the Cemetery from Old Hwy 63 which covers approximately $\frac{3}{4}$ mile.

Mr. Taylor added that Governor Holden signed the feasibility study bill and budgeted \$150,000 for its purpose. MVC will be hiring in late September or early October a consultant to conduct a needs assessment on the cemetery site locations of St. Louis, Fort Leonard Wood and Kansas City areas. Also looking into meeting with officials in DC to check on the status of the National Cemeteries.

Service to Veterans Program: Ronald Taylor, Associate Director

STV Program - Report Update August 12, 2002, prepared by Ron Taylor was handed out. (attachment)

Cemeteries: Ron Taylor, Associate Director

Cemeteries Program – Report Update August 12, 2002, prepared by Ron Taylor was handed out. (attachment)

Veterans Service Organization Grants: Ron Taylor, Associate Director

Service Organization Grants Program – Summary Report Fiscal Year 2002 was handed out. (attachment)

Mr. Taylor informed the Commission that MVC has requested reports from the service organizations on how the funds assisted them. These reports will help

MVC detect if funding is being applied appropriately for outreach, and training purposes.

Memorial Grants: Ron Taylor, Associate Director

Memorial Grants Program – Reported on the following (attachments):

Memorial Grant Committee Recommendations for August 12, 2002

Grants Already Awarded:

- 1.) Recommend disbursement of \$400,000 to Military Education Center and Museum. Commissioner Gralike made a motion to accept the recommendation. Commissioner Bassa seconded the motion. By a voice vote the motion passed unanimously.
- 2.) Recommend 2nd payment of \$36,971 to Jefferson Barracks Project. Commissioner Gralike made a motion to accept the recommendation. Commissioner Miller seconded the motion. By a voice vote the motion passed unanimously.

Dr. Jay Rounds distributed an updated progress report on the planning for Jefferson Barracks museum memorial complex. (attachment)

- 3.) Recommend adjustment of \$5,000 in grant to Chillicothe. Adjustment of cost based upon change from gray to black granite. Commissioner Bassa made a motion to accept the recommendation. Commissioner Fairfax seconded the motion. By a voice vote the motion passed unanimously.

New Grant Requests:

	Location	Project	Amount
1.	Sons of Veterans of Civil War (St. Louis)	Roof Repair of building to be used for Museum	\$14,087.00

Recommend approval of \$14,087.00 grant

2.	Lebanon American Veterans Memorial	Construction of Veterans Memorial	\$24,350.00
----	---------------------------------------	--------------------------------------	-------------

Recommend approval of \$24,350.00 grant

- | | | | |
|----|------------|-----------------------------------|------------|
| 3. | Cooter, MO | Construction of Veterans Memorial | \$3,725.00 |
|----|------------|-----------------------------------|------------|

Recommend approval of \$3,725.00 grant

- | | | | |
|----|---|---|------------|
| 4. | Korean War Memorial
Maryland Heights | Addition to existing Korean War Veterans Memorial | \$6,000.00 |
|----|---|---|------------|

Recommend approval of \$6,000.00 grant

- | | | | |
|----|------------|---------------------------------------|------------|
| 5. | St. Joseph | Replace flagpole at Veterans Memorial | \$1,000.00 |
|----|------------|---------------------------------------|------------|

Recommend approval of \$1,000.00 grant

- | | | | |
|----|------------|-----------------------------------|------------|
| 6. | Senath, MO | Construction of Veterans Memorial | \$2,767.50 |
|----|------------|-----------------------------------|------------|

Recommend approval of \$2,767.50 grant

- | | | | |
|----|-------------|--|------------|
| 7. | Moberly, MO | Addition of Vietnam Veterans Memorial to existing WW I, WWII & Korean Memorial | \$7,214.00 |
|----|-------------|--|------------|

Recommend approval of \$7,214.00 grant

Commissioner Gralike made a motion to accept recommendations #1 through #7. Commissioner Miller seconded the motion. By a voice vote the motion passed unanimously.

- | | | | |
|----|----------------------|------------------------------|--------------|
| 8. | Joplin Memorial Hall | ADA Project at Memorial Hall | \$105,490.00 |
|----|----------------------|------------------------------|--------------|

Application submitted as an additional grant request in 2001. Delayed action caused funding amounts unclear. The committee still recommends late consideration. To date, we have already awarded over \$400,000.00 for the project.

- | | | | |
|----|--------------|--|--------------|
| 9. | Poplar Bluff | Funds to complete a Memorial already in progress | \$223,194.00 |
|----|--------------|--|--------------|

The committee recommends we acquire additional information before a decision is made. The request asks that we consider the \$254,20.00 already spent on the project as the matching funds. On prior grant requests, the decision had been that only design or planning costs incurred prior to grant award could be considered. The grant request does not allow determination of those costs nor does it indicate plans for raising additional funds to match a grant of less than \$223,194.00.

- | | | | |
|-----|-------------|---|--------------|
| 10. | Clay County | Construction of MO
Veterans Memorial | \$104,000.00 |
|-----|-------------|---|--------------|

Recommend reconsideration after additional information acquired and after amount of matching funds available determined. The Committee does not believe we can consider all of “in-kind “ contribution submitted as matching funds.

- | | | | |
|-----|--------------------------------|--------------------------------------|-------------|
| 11. | Sedalia Heritage
Foundation | Construction of
Veterans Memorial | \$11,150.00 |
|-----|--------------------------------|--------------------------------------|-------------|

Recommend reconsideration in November. Most of matching funds not available till 2003. The request is only for initial phase of project. Plans are to receive substantially larger grants from grant program in future. We may wish to be more certain of availability of future grant funds (or of alternate plans on their part) before making commitment.

- | | | | |
|-----|----------------------|--|-------------|
| 12. | Graceland University | Displays of Korean
War documents and
Memorabilia | \$10,000.00 |
|-----|----------------------|--|-------------|

Recommend defer decision. Will request from Attorney General opinion whether this falls within laws intent also acquire more information on proposed displays and materials.

Commissioner Gralike made a motion to defer recommendation #8 through #12 till a later date. Commissioner Bassa seconded the motion. By a voice vote the motion passed unanimously.

Veterans Benefits Awareness Task Force: Ralph Durnbaugh, Director Veterans Benefit Awareness

VBATF – Mr. Durnbaugh reported to the Commission that two Veterans Benefits Supermarkets have taken place in the St. Louis area in order to raise awareness to veterans. Some 400 veterans attended the first Supermarket in Florissant, Missouri on July 20th. The Lt. Governor along with Sam McVay and the Mayor of City of Florissant were guest speakers. The second Supermarket was held at Harris-Stowe State College on August 3rd with approximately 150 attendees. The Supermarkets are organized by Veterans Benefits Supermarket Chairman, John Eckhoff, St. Louis County Dept. of Human Services. The next Supermarket is scheduled for September 21 at the General Motors Plant in Wentzville along with the Traveling Vietnam Wall. Plans are currently underway for two Supermarkets in Kansas City, MO. The first being on October 26th at Penn Valley Community College and the second supermarket has a tentative date of December 7th with the location to be announced. The Commission also has had specific request from other areas around the state to hold a Supermarket.

Mr. Durnbaugh handed out statistics on the Commissions toll free number and explained to the Commissioners how the toll free number works and tracks information.

III. OTHER BUSINESS:

Chairman Niewoehner asked for a report on the Community Outpatient Based Clinics. Ronald Taylor advised that the Warrensburg CBOC has now hired a physician effective August 12th with plans underway for a Grand Opening in mid September. No plans on the opening of the CBOC in Cameron is set at this time due to the delay in staffing. Chairman Niewoehner passed around to the Commissioners a sample brochure of the Mexico CBOC that is distributed at the VA Hospital in Columbia.

Sam McVay informed the Commission that a data-base has been developed that lists Mayors in Missouri whom are members of the MO Municipal League that MVC plans to contact about supporting Veteran Advisory Committees in their communities to help raise benefits awareness.

Colonel Medley distributed to the Commissioners an update on the Military Funeral Honors Program. (attachment)

Jill Talken, Executive Secretary encouraged the Commissioners to visit the Missouri Veterans Commission new web-site at: www.mvc.state.mo.us

Chairman Niewoehner presented to Sam McVay, Executive Director, Missouri Veterans Commission a plaque of appreciation for his exemplary service and dedication to the State of Missouri and its Veterans. Mr. McVay resigned from his position as Executive Director per his request due to health reasons. Commission Bassa commented on the outstanding job he has done for the Commission.

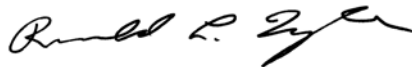
Chairman Niewoehner distributed information to the Commissioners on the Department of Veterans Affairs issues. He noted there are approximately some 300,000 veterans on VA waiting list.

Commissioner Gralike made a motion to accept the reassignment of Executive Director, Sam McVay to Administrator Cape Veterans Home and to appoint Ronald Taylor as Executive Director, Missouri Veterans Commission. Commissioner Fairfax seconded the motion. By a voice vote the motion passed unanimously.

NEXT MEETING

Chairman Niewoehner announced the next Commission meeting will be held on Friday, November 15 at 10:00- 12:00 at Missouri Veterans Commission Headquarters, 1719 Southridge Drive, Jefferson City, Missouri.

With no further business to come before the Commission, the meeting was adjourned at 12:30 p.m.



Ronald L. Taylor, Secretary